

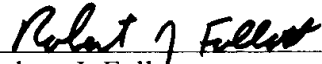
REMARKS

**Rejections under 35 USC 112:**

The claims have been amended to address the issues raised by the Examiner.  
No new matter has been introduced and the rejections are requested to be withdrawn.

In light of the above amendments and remarks, reconsideration of the pending application is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

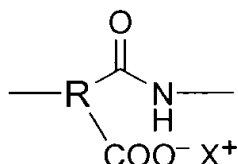
  
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Date: March 11, 2001

MARKED AMENDED CLAIMS

In the claims:

1. (Once amended) A polyimide article formed from a polyamic acid salt precursory article by thermal or chemical imidization, wherein ~~the~~ said polyamic acid salt precursory article is formed from a casting solution containing from 0.01% to 20 % by volume of tertiary amines or water, wherein said polyamic acid salt precursor contains the following radicals:



wherein R is a substituted or unsubstituted aromatic, alicyclic, heterocyclic, or aliphatic radical; and

X is an ammonium ion, a phosphonium ion, a sulfonium ion, a protonated tertiary amine or a quaternary amine or a mixture thereof.

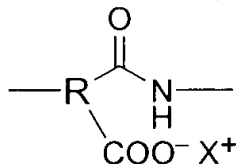
6. (Once amended) The fluid separation membrane of claim 2 wherein ~~the said counter ion X of the said polyamic acid salt~~ is a protonated tertiary amine, tetraalkylammonium ~~or~~ ammonia.

7. (Once amended) The fluid separation membrane ~~of claim 6~~, wherein said protonated tertiary amine is protonated trimethylamine, protonated triethylamine, protonated tri-~~protonated~~ n-propylamine, protonated tri-n-butylamine, protonated tri-n-hexylamine or, protonated dimethylalkylamine.

8. (Once amended) A polyamide fluid separation membrane wherein ~~the said~~ polyimide membrane is a composite membrane formed by the following process: a) forming a coating solution of ~~at~~ the polyamic acid salt polymer in a solvent system that contains from 0.01% to 20 % by volume of tertiary amine or water; b) applying said coating solution to a porous substrate to form a coated substrate; c) solidifying said coating solution by drying or by immersing said coated substrate into a non solvent; d) converting said coated substrate having ~~the said~~ solidified coating            into a final polyimide composite membrane by thermal or chemical treatment.

11. (Once amended) The process of claim 8 wherein said porous ~~hollow fiber~~ substrate is formed from polysulfone, polyimide, polyamide, polyolefine, or polyether imide.

15. (Once amended) A polyimide article formed from a polyamic acid salt precursor article by thermal imidization, wherein ~~the said~~ polyamic acid salt precursor article is formed from a casting solution containing a catalyst, and said polyamic acid salt precursor contains the following radicals:



wherein R is a substituted or unsubstituted aromatic, alicyclic, heterocyclic, or aliphatic radical; and

X is an ammonium ion, a phosphonium ion, a sulfonium ion, a protonated tertiary amine or a quaternary amine or a mixture thereof.

18. (Once amended) The polyimide fluid separation membrane of claim 16 wherein the temperature of said thermal imidization ~~temperature~~ is between 100 to 200 degrees Centigrade.

24. (Once amended) The polyimide membrane of claim 23 wherein ~~the said~~ inert solvent is hexane, cyclohexane, octane, pentane, ethyl ether, propyl ether, butyl ether, methyl t-butyl ether, petroleum ether, perfluorinated alkanes, perfluorinated alkyl ether, acetone or methyl ethyl ketone.

25. (Once amended) The polyimide membrane of claim 23 wherein ~~the said~~ diluted dehydration agent is an acid anhydride, acid chloride or an acetal.

28. (Once amended) The fluid separation membrane of claim 23 wherein ~~X the said counter ion of the said polyamic acid salt~~ is a protonated tertiary amine, tetraalkylammonium or ammonia.